

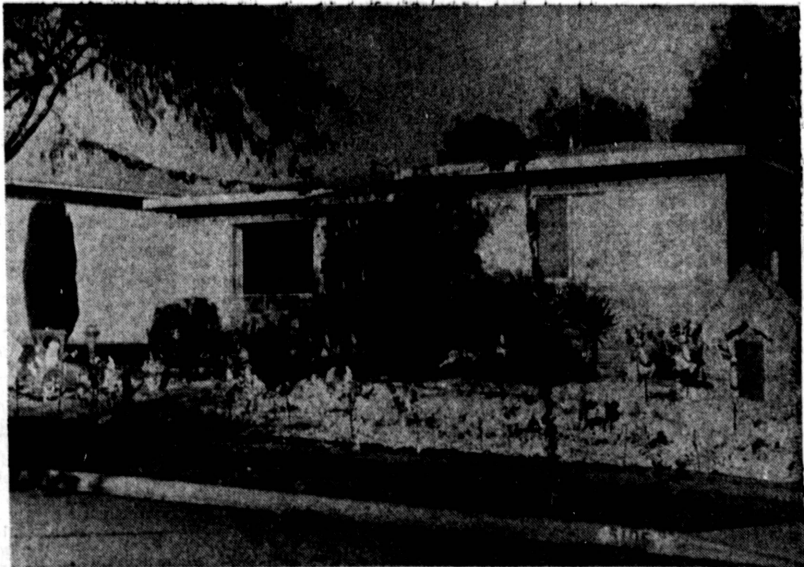


MERRY CHRISTMAS



Nativity, Reindeer Win Prizes

An elaborate nativity scene on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Walter D. Crance, 20011 Belvedere Ave. (shown at left), has captured first prize in the annual Torrance Jaycee's Christmas Lighting Contest, religious division. Second place in the religious category went to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller Jr., 18319 Mansel Ave. In the novelty division, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Michael, 5105 Mindora Drive, walked off with first place honors with their replica of Santa and his reindeer prancing across their lawn (at right). Second prize, novelty, went to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Christie, 3112 Dalemead St. All winners will receive trophies at the Jaycee dinner meeting scheduled Jan. 9.



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SANTA'S HELPERS . . . Torrance beauties lend their personal touch to Christmas festivities to help the Press-Herald wish everyone the merriest holiday season yet. Shown trimming the Christmas tree are (from left) Etta Cumiford,

Torrance princess; Sharon Terrill, Miss California; and Darcy Jo Barcroft, Miss Torrance. Darcy models a "Miss Santa Claus" outfit specially designed and made by her mother. (Press-Herald Photo)

Rites Set Friday For Slain Officer

Efforts to Save Policeman Fail; Suspect Killed

By NATALIE HALL
Press-Herald Staff Writer

Funeral services for Torrance Police Officer Gary Rippstein, who died Sunday in the line of duty, will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 228th and Kent Streets. Burial will follow at Green Hills.

Officer Rippstein was pronounced dead Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at South Bay Hospital, after surgery failed to save him. He died of a bullet wound in the stomach sustained Saturday as he attempted to arrest a suspected airplane thief in Hermosa Beach.

Police spokesmen said the 29-year-old detective never regained full consciousness.

Officer Rippstein leaves his wife, Marsha, and their three children, Gary Kurt, 4 years; Terri, 2 years; and Kris, 1 year.

The fatal shooting occurred as Officer Rippstein and Officer Robert Holmes entered the apartment of Ted Xanthis, 39, at 8th and Ardmore Streets, Hermosa Beach. Police said Xanthis drew a gun and opened fire on

Officer Rippstein as the detective walked into the bedroom. Officer Holmes returned the fire, wounding Xanthis.

When Hermosa Beach police arrived, the suspect opened fire again. He was killed in the ensuing bullet exchange.

THE SUSPECT'S wife, Patsy Xanthis, was arrested at the scene by Hermosa Beach police. She was charged with assault with intent to commit murder and receiving stolen property.

Xanthis had been suspected of embezzlement of aircraft and auto theft.

The victim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Victor Rippstein of Torrance, was born in Downey, April 12, 1939. He was graduated from Torrance High School and attended El Camino College.

Officer Rippstein became interested in police work while serving a two-year stint with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Midwest. He was a convert to Mormonism and rose to be an ordained elder with the Torrance church.

Rippstein joined the Torrance Police Department in April, 1962. He religiously followed the position of chaplain with the department. He performed wedding ceremonies for two Torrance police officers and their brides, Detective and Mrs. James Weyant and Detective and Mrs. Lee Turner.

In April, 1963, Officer Rippstein was called into active service in the U.S. Army, where he served for two years and attained the rank of second lieutenant. He was assigned to the U.S. Army Artillery and Missile School as an administrative advisor.

He was a member of the National Guard.

UPON HIS return from the armed forces, Officer Rippstein served the Torrance Police Department in the patrol division, the services division photo lab, and was assigned to the auto theft detail when he was killed.

Just last week, Officer Rippstein (See OFFICER, Page A-2).



GARY RIPPSTEIN
Rites Slated

Beatings Suspected In Death

The death of a 3-year-old Torrance boy may have been the result of beatings.

Police have listed a possible homicide in the death of Raymond Michael Limon, 23649 Park St. The youngster died Sunday morning at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Raymond's mother, Mrs. Florence Kiyoko Limon, had taken the child to the hospital the night before after she was unable to awaken him.

Police officers said Raymond's body was covered with bruises. A preliminary autopsy revealed brain damage.

Mrs. Limon told police she did not know how her child received the bruises. However, the youngster was frequently left in the care of a babysitter and a neighbor.

No arrests have been made.

Meeting Slated

Members of the Torrance City Council will convene for their final session of 1968 next Monday at 8 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Chambers at the City Hall, 3031 Torrance Blvd.

Hundreds To Attend Funeral

Hundreds of persons, including most members of the Torrance Police Department, are expected to attend funeral rites Friday for Officer Gary Rippstein, who was fatally shot last Saturday while making an arrest.

Police personnel from other municipalities will help man the Torrance Department so as many local police officers as possible may attend the slain officer's funeral.

An array of city and county officials, as well as representatives from the National Guard, also are expected to attend the rites.

PALLBEARERS will be Officers Robert Holmes, Donald Flaherty, James Weyant, Lee Turner, Frank Solis, and Harold Maestri. All are members of the Torrance police detective bureau except Sergeant Weyant.

Bishop Robert D. Fernley of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who will conduct the rites, explained the Mormon belief about the hereafter. "When an individual dies," Bishop Fernley said, "it doesn't end his life. There is life after death and that's where Gary is now. Apparently he was needed more desperately on the other side."

"This gives his wife a great deal of comfort because she believes one day she will be with him. We believe that," Bishop Fernley added.

Bishop Fernley will also deliver the eulogy.

Officer Rippstein was active in the local Mormon Church as an elder. Bishop Fernley noted that Rippstein was currently serving as a home missionary, attempting to make converts in the community.

Following the funeral rites, interment will be made at Green Hills. Stone and Myers Mortuary is in charge of arrangements.

A memorial fund for the family of the slain officer has been established by Marina Federal Savings and Loan Association, 22200 Hawthorne Blvd. Donations may be sent in care of the Gary Rippstein Memorial Fund.

Industry Group Told Of Compton Project

Willie Hill, director of Project SCRIBE for the Compton Union High School District, explained the experimental program at a luncheon meeting of the South Bay Harbor Industry-Education Council at the Indian Village Restaurant.

Standing for Summer Curriculum Revision Through Industrial and Business Experience, Project SCRIBE is a government-financed experiment currently in its second year.

The purpose of Project SCRIBE, Hill stated, is to give academic classroom teachers a taste of the business and industrial world, so that they can better help their students prepare for the world in which they will work.

Under auspices of Title III, Elementary and Secondary Education Act, five Compton teachers each spent five weeks working in industry during the summer, Hill stated. Results of their observations were published by the school district for other teachers to benefit from. As a result of their observations, new curriculum aimed at career preparation was developed by the school district.

Included in the new curriculum, Hill said, were such things as: voice, safety, vocabulary, personality, quality control, and speed reading. New curriculum also deals with how to handle a job interview and how to sell oneself to prospective employers.

Head Start Youngsters Have Early Christmas

Christmas came early for 150 Head Start children.

Santa's helpers were students in the sales and merchandising classes at West High School who distributed more than 300 toys and two tons of canned food to the five Head Start centers in Santa Monica.

The class project involved collecting the toys and canned food from the faculty and students. The class sold candy canes to pay for the ribbon and paper to wrap the toys.

THE TOYS ranged from tricycles and scooters to dolls and stuffed animals. Every new toy was wrapped and tagged individually with a child's name.

so he could receive his present from Santa, played by John Tompkins, a West High senior. The other toys, perhaps soiled or in slight need of repair, were donated to be distributed throughout the year.

Senior Terry Grantham, who sold \$90 worth of 10-cent candy canes, said, "This whole project and especially seeing the looks on the children's faces was the most rewarding experience I've ever had."

"WE WORKED together like a team, said Santa. "Everyone was so enthusiastic. There weren't any problems because it's so easy to get involved when you're giving and helping."

Hit-Run Robbery Logged

A Torrance man was hit over the head with a bottle and robbed of \$200 Monday morning after leaving a local bar.

Injured was Paul Kolkoff, 48, of 4824 Reese Road.

Kolkoff told police he was driving away from the bar about 3:20 a.m. when a car collided with his.

The occupant of the other car turned out to be a man he had just met at the bar. The man allegedly hit him over the head with a pop bottle and then demanded Kolkoff's cash.

No suspects have been apprehended.